



Peri Wolff, President



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It is a beautiful Easter Sunday here in the west. As I write, a ground squirrel is focused on digging up a newly planted primrose and I am distracted with thoughts of a rodent trap and relocation operation and the dilemma of balancing wildlife welfare with that of tender new plant growth in a desert environment. Enough daydreaming; time to get back to the task of writing the Presidents report.

Tax season is over, but election season is in full swing. Nominations have been received for the Tom Thorne and Beth Williams memorial award. Helen Schwantje, Margaret Wild, and Colin Gillin serve as AAWV’s members on this joint AAWV / WDA committee co-chaired by Thierry Work and myself. The committee will soon convene to vote on a recipient from this year’s group of distinguished nominees. Interest in this award has been steadily increasing with 4 nominees currently being considered.

The Wildlife Veterinary Section (WVS) of the WDA is also holding their second set of elections since the Section formed two years ago. Previously AAWV had been representing wildlife veterinary medicine within the WDA, however due to differences in the by-laws of the two organizations it was necessary for WDA to form the WVS. AAWV and WVS share many members and collaborative efforts to promote wildlife health. In the upcoming election, AAWV members Anne Justice-Allen and Tom DeLiberto are running for Chairperson, Kevin Castle and Holly Ernst for Secretary, and Nancy Boedecker and Nina Schoch both running unopposed for treasurer and Newsletter Editor, respectively. If you are a WDA-WVS member please take time to cast your vote on May 1st. Candidate statements are posted on the WDA website under the “Sections” tab.

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AAWV NEWSLETTER

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LIFE VETERINARIANS**

Founded in 1979, the AAWV is a national, non-profit organization of veterinarians interested in all aspects of wildlife health.

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Kurt Sladky will finish his 6 year term in July representing AAWV on the AVMA Clinical Practitioners Advisory Committee (CPAC). Kurt has done an excellent job of communicating to the AAWV membership the many important issues that impact captive and free-ranging wildlife. I am especially grateful to Kurt for attending each Committee meeting as the joint AAWV/AAZV representative, which meant, as the CPAC Alternate, my job was easy.

Last week we received notification from the Dr. Ron DeHaven, CEO of the AVMA, that Vicki Clyde's nomination for the new Primary Representative on CPAC was approved by the Board of Directors. Vicki is a veteran member of both AAWV and AAZV and is a staff veterinarian at the Milwaukee Zoo. In Vicki's own words, "her logical and practical personality and ability to appreciate and work with many varied stakeholders, qualify her as an excellent nominee to represent Zoo and Wildlife Medicine on the AVMA Clinical Practitioners Advisory Committee", and I agree. Mark Drew's nomination as Alternative Representative is currently being considered by AVMA. Mark and Vicki will provide a full scope of expertise for the CPAC. As the wildlife veterinarian for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Mark can lend the wildlife agency perspective, particularly related to issues concerning drug residues in food animals. As a zoo veterinarian you can't imagine someone eating a bear, a cougar or a bobcat, but as a wildlife agency vet you realize that they are all potentially on the menu and thus fall under FDA regulations.

In addition to the Clinical Practitioners Advisory Committee and per our joint MOU, AAWV and AAZV currently share a Zoo and Wildlife Medicine Representatives on the AVMA Animal Welfare Committee (Julie Napier, Primary / Julie Langenberg, Alternate) as well as the Committee on Environmental Issues (Jim Sikarskie). Committee representatives must be both AAWV, AAZV and AVMA members and terms of service are 3 to 6 years. These committees address many issues that impact captive and free-ranging wildlife and are a great opportunity for AAWV members to share their expertise.

As the ground squirrel handily destroys the last primrose, I want to remind you that registration is open for the Annual International Meeting of the Wildlife Disease Association. This

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year's conference is July 27-August 1, and will be held at the Tamaya Resort and Spa, which is located on the tribal lands of the Santa Ana Pueblo. AAWV is a co-sponsor of the meeting which means that all AAWV members receive the WDA member registration rate. This is shaping up to be an excellent meeting at a beautiful location and certainly one you will not want to miss. Hope to see you in July.

Job Announcement: [Public Health Veterinarian](#), Vancouver, British Columbia Canada, BC Center for Disease Control. Reference #29031

Recent Releases from USGS - NWHC

- ⇒ [Toxoplasmosis](#) - a new USGS circular that includes disease ecology, public health implications, and the recent impacts on wildlife populations.
- ⇒ [Trichinosis](#) - a new USGS circular on the "king of parasites." The prevalence of human disease appears to be increasing and has been associated with the consumption of game meat.

Helen Schwantje collaring a moose with Frontline Helicopters





Call for Nominations: 2014 ACZM Student Manuscript Award

The American College of Zoological Medicine (ACZM) is soliciting nominations for its 2014 Student Manuscript Award. This award recognizes an outstanding paper published in the peer-reviewed scientific literature in 2013 that resulted from research conducted by a veterinarian during his or her enrollment in a post-graduate training program (internship, residency, fellowship or post-doctoral research degree). The award, in the form of a plaque and \$1,000, will be announced and awarded at the American Association of Zoo Veterinarian's annual banquet in Orlando, Florida on October 23, 2014. Although preferred, nominees need not be present at the banquet to receive the award.

To nominate a recipient for this honor, an ACZM Diplomate or mentor must submit a copy of the published paper in .pdf format accompanied by a signed cover letter certifying that the work described in the publication was conducted while the nominee was engaged in a post-graduate training program. The nominee must be the first author on the paper, and the paper must report on original work conducted by the nominee; case reports are not eligible for this competition. There are no restrictions on the journal in which the nominee's work was published other than that it must be a peer-reviewed scientific publication.

Nominated manuscripts will be reviewed by the ACZM Student Manuscript Award subcommittee, comprised of a chairperson and two additional committee members, and the committee's recommendation will be forwarded to the ACZM Executive Committee for approval. Manuscripts will be judged according to the following criteria: overall scientific merit; writing quality; and potential impact of the work in advancing the field of zoological medicine and the mission of the ACZM.

Nominations are due to the Award Subcommittee chairperson, Kirsten Gilardi, DVM, DACZM (kvgilardi@ucdavis.edu) by **September 1, 2014**. Please feel free to contact Gilardi if you have questions.



WDA ANNUAL MEETING, TAMAYA RESORT, NEW MEXICO

VENUE: TAMAYA RESORT

A Hyatt property on the Santa Ana Pueblo about 15 miles north of Albuquerque along the Rio Grande River. Great food, full gym and spa, 3 pools, free bikes and extensive for hiking and biking, golf, a horse rehabilitation facility, Native American cooking and craft demonstrations, and many other family friendly features.

WORKSHOPS AND FIELD TRIPS - SPACE IS LIMITED, RESERVE YOUR PLACE NOW

Field Investigation of Wildlife Mortality for Students (Sunday, July 27, 8:30-4:30)

Sponsored by the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians, this workshop covers the basics of wildlife mortality investigations from start to finish. This workshop is limited to 30 participants and will be cancelled if there are less than 10 participants a week before the meeting.

Basic Forensic necropsy (Wednesday, July 30 12:30-4:30)

We will provide attendees a chance to learn first-hand what to look for if they think foul play has befallen the animal they have found. Not only the common poaching type case, but deliberate poisonings, accidental electrocutions, and yes, even those strange "they only took the eyes and livers!" cases. What to look for before you start hacking the carcass, how to approach a case, considerations if criminal activity is suspected, what and how to look for evidence in some "common" forensic cases, how to handle tissues and samples, chain of custody in case goes to court, and what to do if it really IS Alien activity!

Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge (Wednesday, July 30 1:00-5:30)

Located about an hour south of the Tamaya Resort, the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge four different biomes, and riparian habitat (Rio Grande flows through the center of it), it is host to the University of New Mexico's Long Term Ecological Research program and it is home to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Mexican grey wolf breeding program. This trip is limited to 20 people and the fee includes a box lunch.

Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge (Wednesday, July 30 1:00-5:30)

Bosque del Apache is known primarily as a waterfowl wintering area with large numbers of sandhill cranes. During the summer it is a popular location to see resident waterfowl and songbirds. This trip is limited to 25 people and the fee includes lunch.

Petroglyph National Monument, Coronado State Park (Wednesday, July 30 1:00-5:30)

Petroglyph National Monument protects one of the largest petroglyph sites in North America, featuring designs and symbols carved onto volcanic rocks by Native Americans and Spanish settlers 400 to 700 years ago. This trip is limited to 30 people and the fee includes a lunch.

Additional attractions

The Albuquerque Biopark, Zoo and Aquarium

The University of New Mexico's Museum of Southwestern Biology

Sandia Peak Tram

National Museum of Nuclear Energy and Science

Old town Albuquerque

Santa Fe Market

And much more!!



Invasive Asian Swamp Eel Carries Parasite with Zoonotic Potential

(from USGS-NWHC website)

U. S. Geological Survey scientists found gnathostomes in Asian swamp eels (*Monopterus* spp.) collected between 2010 and 2012 from food markets and Florida waters where the eels are an invasive species. The parasite is transmitted to people when they consume raw or undercooked infected eels. The definitive hosts are canids and felids. Humans are considered dead end hosts and the signs of infection are related to aberrant migration. Symptoms initially consist of abdominal pain, fever, and vomiting. Larvae migrate to various tissues and may cause blindness and neurologic disease in severe cases.

In addition to Florida, Asian swamp eels have been found in Florida, Georgia, and New Jersey. The lifecycle of gnathostomes is complex with multiple intermediates and paratenic hosts. The combined impacts of the parasites and the Asian swamp eels on native vertebrates and invertebrates is under investigation.

[Article](#) in Emerging Infectious Diseases



Angiostrongylus vasorum and *Hepatozoon* in a Red Fox

(from *Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study* - Whitney Kistler and Michael Yabsley)

In March 2011, an adult female red fox from Randolph County, West Virginia was submitted to SCWDS for evaluation. The fox had been captured and euthanized after it had been observed behaving erratically. The fox was emaciated. The lungs contained multifocal to coalescing, bilateral, reddish brown firm foci. Microscopic examination revealed severe granulomatous bronchopneumonia with first stage nematode larvae morphologically identified as *A. vasorum*. Additionally, *Eucoleus aerophilus*, (*Capillaria aerophilus*) eggs were observed in the bronchial epithelium. Mild hepatitis was determined by PCR and sequencing to be the result of infection with *Hepatozoon canis*.

Angiostrongylus vasorum, also known as French heartworm is a nematode of wild and domestic canids. The parasite is endemic to several countries in Europe and South America but in North America had only been reported in the Canadian provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador. It was first detected in Canada in 1973 in foxes. It has also been reported in domestic dogs (1996) and coyotes (2003).

It is uncertain how a fox from West Virginia became infected with *A. vasorum*. Movement of wild or domestic canids is likely. Genetic studies of the parasite and additional surveys of wild canids are warranted.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Jun. 2	to	Jun. 5	Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council, Fort Collins, Colorado, USA
Jun. 25	to	Jun. 27	James Steele Conf. Diseases in Nature Transmissible to Man, Irving, TX, USA
Jul. 7	to	Jul. 11	International Conf. on Island Evolution, Ecology, and Conservation, Honolulu, HI, USA
Jul. 13	to	Jul. 16	North America Congress for Conservation Biology, Missoula, MT, USA
Jul. 17	to	Jul. 23	Western Assoc. of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, San Antonio, TX, USA
Jul. 27	to	Aug. 1	International Congress Bacteriology and Applied Microbiology, Mycology, and Virology, Montreal, Canada
Jul. 27	to	Aug. 1	Wildlife Disease Association, Bernalillo, New Mexico, USA
Jul. 28	to	Jul. 31	3rd Annual Workshop on Malaria and Related Haemosporidian Parasites of Wildlife, Shepherdstown, WV, USA
Sept. 21	to	Sept. 25	2014 Annual Meeting of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, St. Louis, MO, USA
Oct. 16	To	Oct. 22	United States Animal Health Association and American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, Kansas City, Missouri, USA



Virgin River Ram - Anne Justice-Allen

Please submit items for the next newsletter to the editor at ajustice-allen@azgfd.gov by June 15th